

Application No. 10/657,852
Supplemental response to Final Office Action mailed December 15, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Following the amendments, claims 6-8, 26-29, 34 and 35 are pending in the application, with claims 6 and 7 being in independent format.

Claims 9, 25, 31 and 36-39 have been cancelled from the application in order to expedite allowance of the remaining claims.

Applicants submit that support for all the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed and that none of the amendments constitute new matter or raise new issues for consideration.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph - written description & enablement

In the final Office Action mailed December 15, 2005, claims 9, 26, 27, 29, 34 and 36-39 were finally rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as lacking both an adequate written description and an enabling disclosure. In a subsequent telephone call with the applicants' representative on December 22, 2005, the Examiner agreed that claims 26, 27, 29 and 34 (dependent on allowed claims 6-8). Accordingly, applicants believe that this rejection of claims 26, 27, 29 and 34 should be withdrawn.

While applicants do not acquiesce in these rejections of claims 9 and 36-39, these claims have been cancelled from the application in order to expedite allowance of the remaining claims. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue claims to the subject matter of cancelled claims 9 and 36-39 in a related patent application.

It is submitted that, following entry of the above amendments, these rejections of the claims may be properly withdrawn.

Concluding Remarks

The final Office Action indicated that claims 6-8 are allowable. As discussed above, the Examiner has previously agreed that claims 26, 27, 29 and 34, which depend on allowed claims

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6-8, are also allowable. Early reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

A Request for a One Month Extension of Time, extending the deadline for response to the final Office Action to April 15, 2006, is submitted herewith.

Should the Examiner have any further concerns regarding the subject patent application, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at 206.382.1191.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: April 4, 2006
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